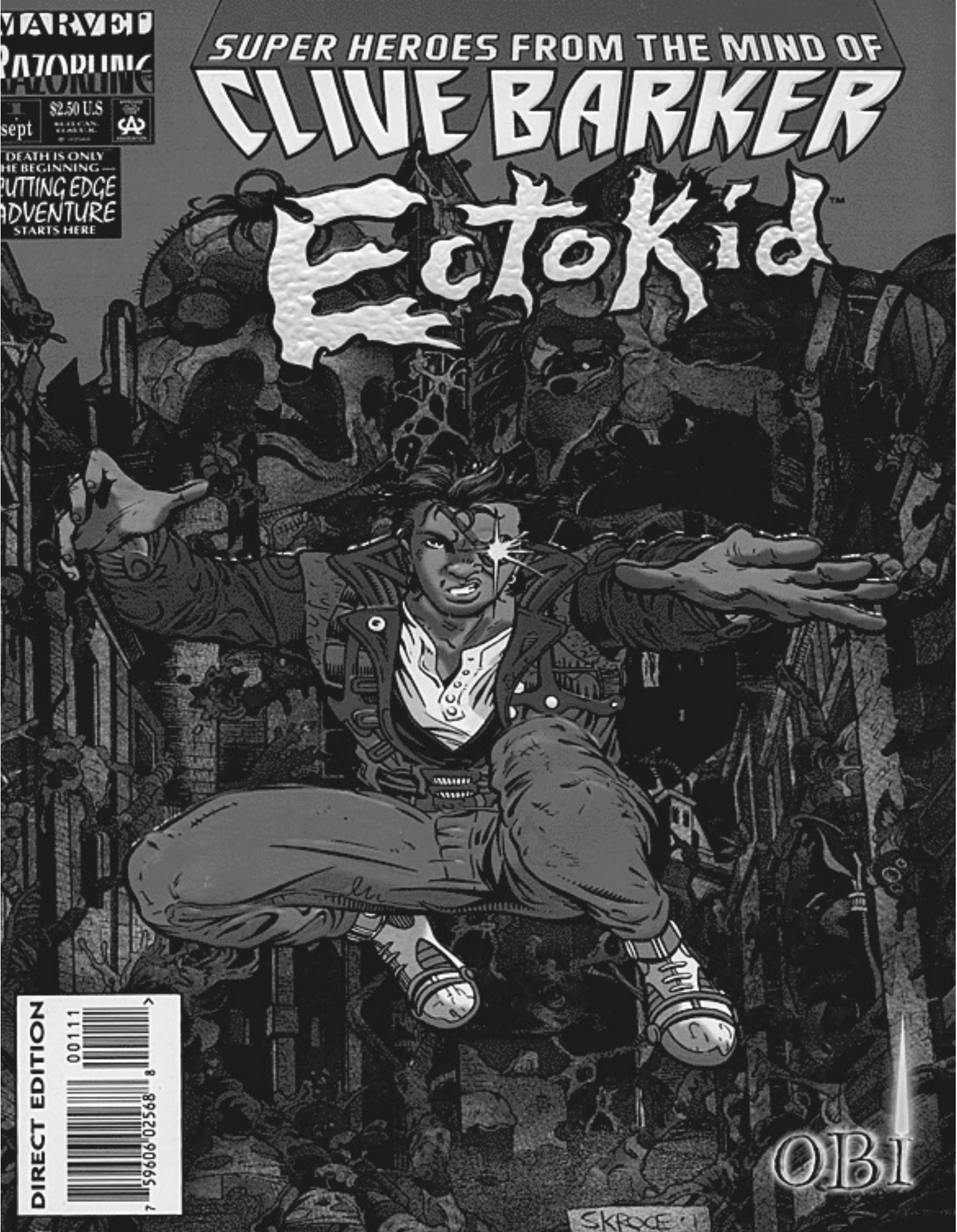
VISIT…


MARVEL
RAZORLINE
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DEATH IS ONLY
HE BEGINNING—
UTTING EDGE
DVENTURE
STARTS HERE
SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF
CLIVE BARKER
Ectokid
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EctoKid
IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE...
...THAT NOTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME MAKES ANY SENSE AT ALL.
LIKE WHO OR WHAT ARE THESE GUYS CHASING ME?
AND WHY?
AND HOW IS IT THAT ONE INSTANT I'M HERE IN NEW ORLEANS ON STREETS I KNOW LIKE OLD FRIENDS...
GET HIM! GET--
CATCH THE LITTLE...
GRAB HIM!
...AND NEXT INSTANT...

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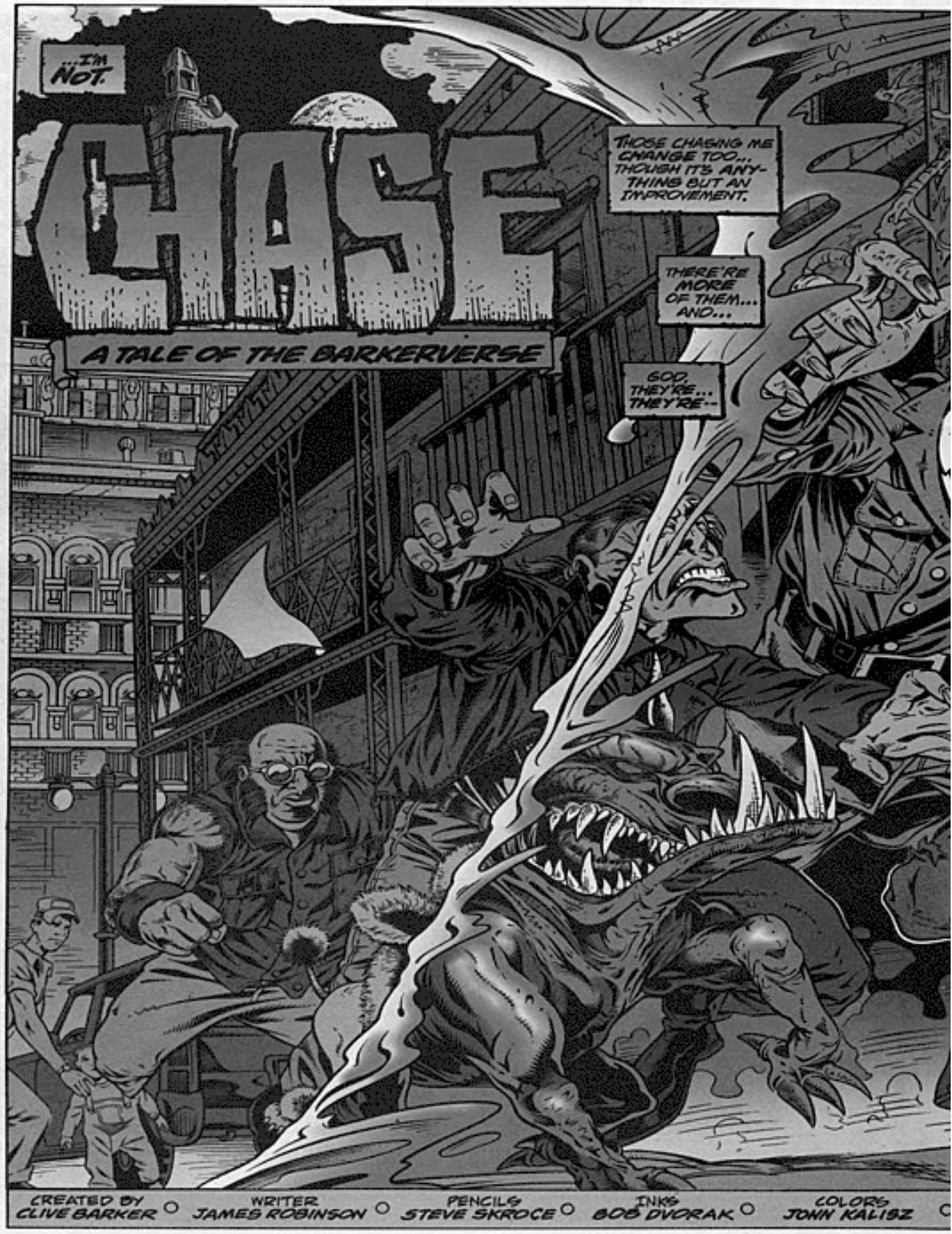

...I'M NOT.
CHASE
A TALE OF THE BARKERVERSE
THOSE CHASING ME CHANGE TOO... THOUGH IT'S ANY-THING BUT AN IMPROVEMENT.
THERE'RE MORE OF THEM... AND...
GOD, THEY'RE... THEY'RE--
CREATED BY CLIVE BARKER
WRITER JAMES ROBINSON
PENCILS STEVE SKROCE
INKS BOB DVORAK
COLORS JOHN KALISZ

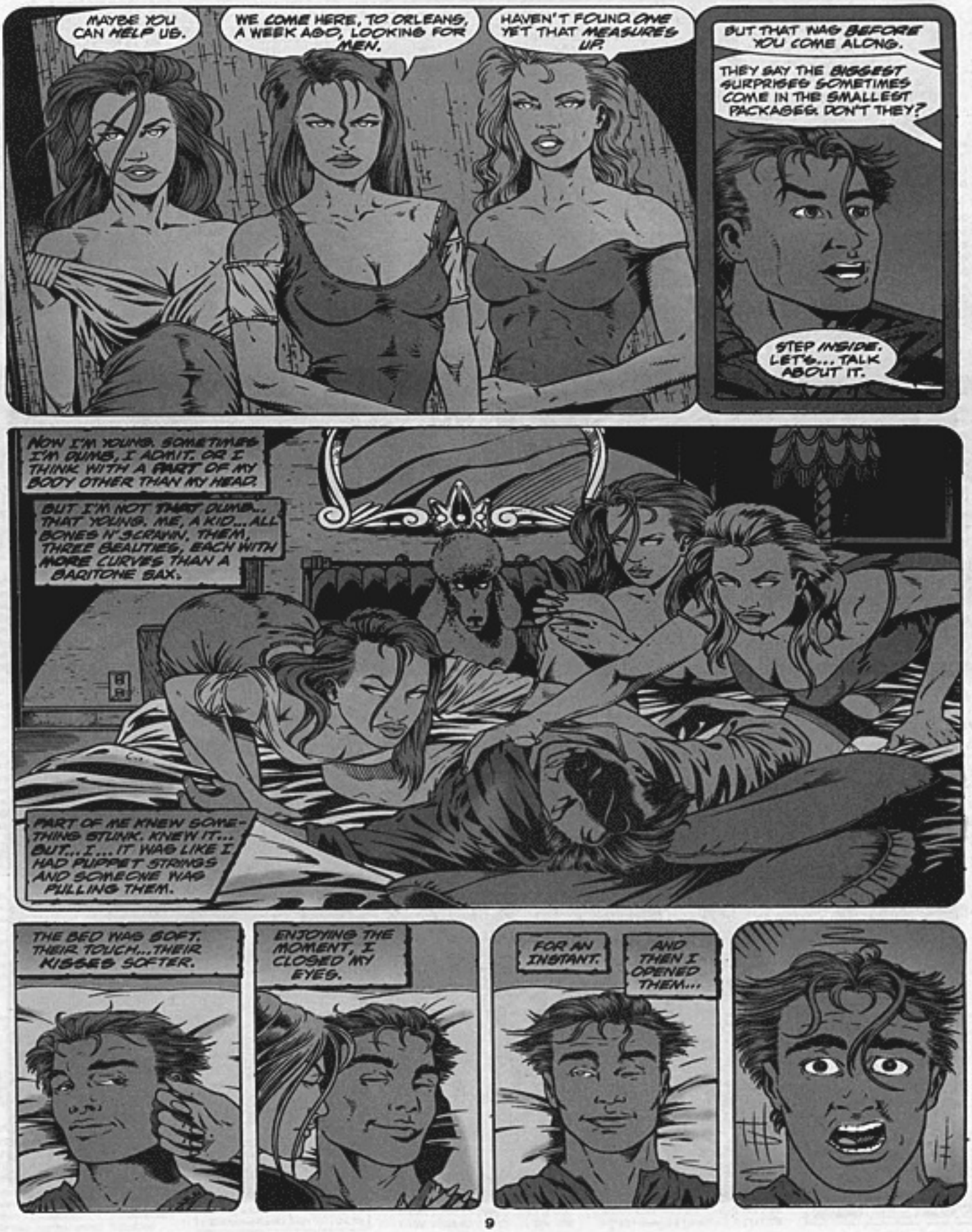
I'M IN HELL. I KNOW IT. I'VE DIED AND GONE TO HELL.
THE HELL O' MY DREAMS. EXCEPT THIS TIME... I KNOW I'M NOT DREAMING.
MOMENTS AGO, MY FOOTSTEPS WERE A DULL THUD ON PAVEMENT. NOW THEY ECHO ON COBBLESTONE.
AIR'S... WARM. SMELLS OF... SULPHUR OR SOMETHING.
AND...
AND...

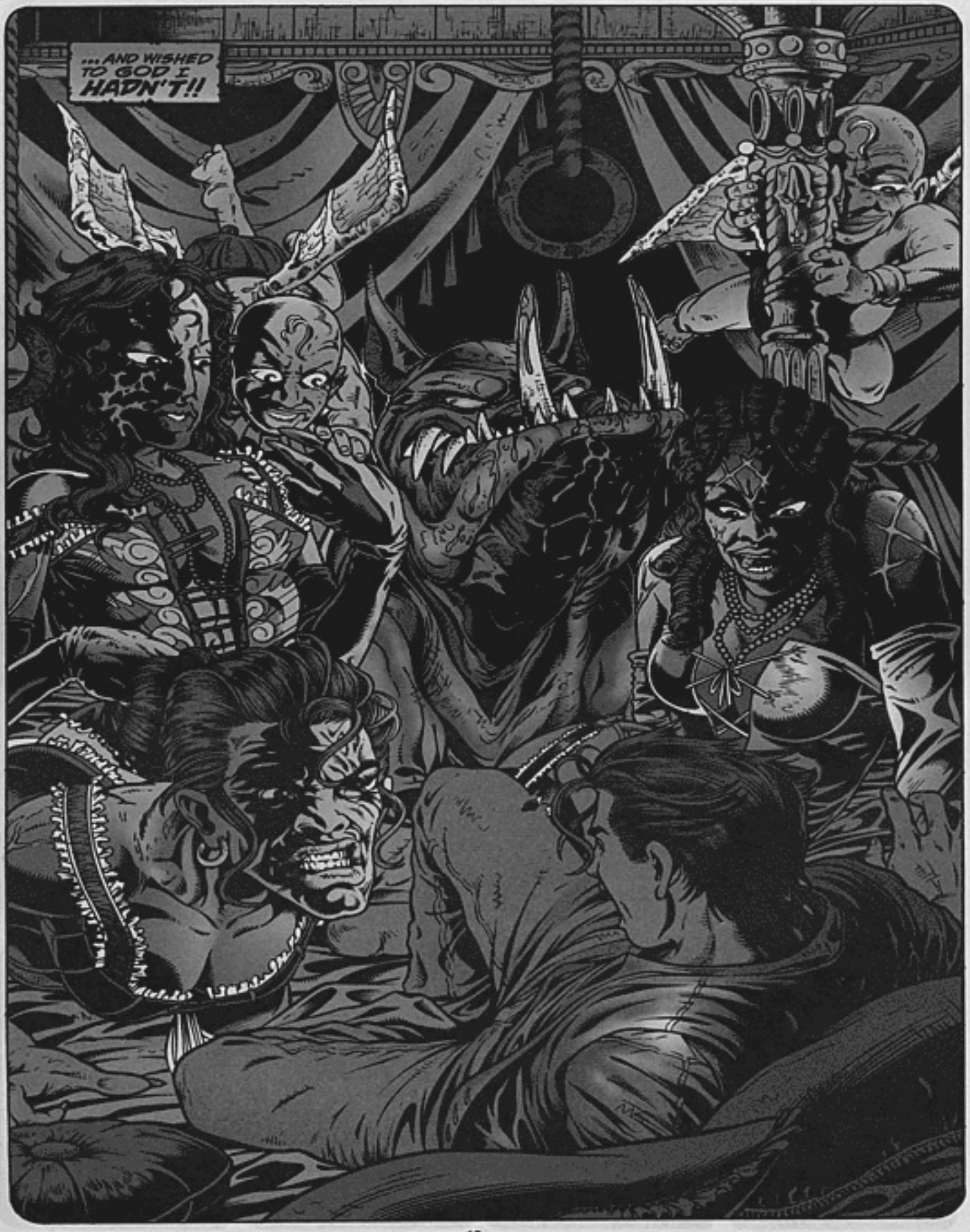
LETTERS Gaughan ○ EDITOR MARC McLAURIN ○ CONSULTING EDITOR MALCOLM SMITH ○ EXECUTIVE EDITOR CHIEF ○ CARL POTTS ○ TOM DeFALCO

...THEN I'M BACK AGAIN.
GOT HI--
AND BACK AGAIN.
LET ME GO!
DAMN! CARS AND CARRIAGE PARKED IN THIS WORLD AND NOT IN MINE... APPEAR OUT'A NOWHERE!
HHHG
WATCH O--
AND BACK AGAIN.
FHH
NHH
GOTTA STAY ALERT.
AND...AND...
AND AND

...JUST THIS MORNING, LIFE HAD SEEMED SO RICH IN OPPORTUNITY... FOR DEX MUNGO.
THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, HIS PLAYMATE, WHO SHARED HIS SECRETS AND ABETTED HIS CRIMES.
THE MOIST AIR, UNBEARABLE FOR SOME, WAS A COMFORTABLE SECOND SKIN TO DEX.
HE'D HEARD A CORNET SOLO, TWO STREETS EARLIER. ITS MELODY STILL AMBLED HAPPILY AROUND HIS HEAD.
"YES..."
"...A GOOD DAY", DEX HAD THOUGHT, WITH FINGERS LIGHT AND EYES BRIGHT...
...FOR EASY PLUNDER.
"I'LL HIDE MY VALUABLES UNDER THE PILLOW. NO ONE WILL FIND THEM THERE."
HUH, DO TOURISTS LEAVE THEIR BRAINS AT HOME...ALONG WITH THEIR HONDA CIVICS?
SEEMS SO.
THO' I'LL NOT COMPLAI--

WELL, HELLO THERE, YOU TWO. LIKE TO GO FOR A WALK?
I USED TO THINK MY SHOES WERE THE COOLEST THINGS EVER TO GO ON A PAIR OF FEET.
USED TO... LAST YEAR. A YEAR YOUNGER AND DUMBER. NOW I SEE THEY'RE KINDA LAME.
LUCKILY...
...THAT'S EASILY REMEDIED.
AND ANYONE DUMB ENOUGH TO LEAVE THESE BEAUTIES IN A HOTEL CORRIDOR DESERVES TO GET 'EM TOOK.
SHOULD HAVE POLISHED THEM HIMSELF, ANYWAY. LAZY SO AND SO!
KNEW IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO COME HERE... HOTEL AT THE HEIGHT OF THE TOURIST SEASON.
ALREADY A PAIR OF BOOTS, A WATCH, A WALLET.
STAY ALERT 'O HOTEL SECURITY!
...AND I'LL MAKE OUT LIKE A BANDI--
NOW, AREN'T YOU HANDSOME!


MAYBE YOU CAN HELP US.
WE COME HERE, TO ORLEANS, A WEEK AGO, LOOKING FOR MEN.
HAVEN'T FOUND ONE YET THAT MEASURES UP.
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE YOU COME ALONG.
THEY SAY THE BIGGEST SURPRISES SOMETIMES COME IN THE SMALLEST PACKAGES. DON'T THEY?
STEP INSIDE. LET'S... TALK ABOUT IT.
NOW I'M YOUNG. SOMETIMES I'M DUMB, I ADMIT. OR I THINK WITH A PART OF MY BODY OTHER THAN MY HEAD.
BUT I'M NOT THAT DUMB... THAT YOUNG. ME, A KID... ALL BONES N' SCRAWN. THEM, THREE BEAUTIES, EACH WITH MORE CURVES THAN A BARITONE SAX.
PART OF ME KNEW SOMETHING STUNK. KNEW IT... BUT... I... IT WAS LIKE I HAD PUPPET STRINGS AND SOMEONE WAS PULLING THEM.
THE BED WAS SOFT. THEIR TOUCH... THEIR KISSES SOFTER.
ENJOYING THE MOMENT, I CLOSED MY EYES.
FOR AN INSTANT.
AND THEN I OPENED THEM...


...AND WISHED TO GOD I HADN'T!!

WAIT!
DON'T GO!
WE'RE...
YOU... CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT!
I AM OUTTA HERE!
KURT!
LYLE! HE'S GOING! HE'S--
GET HIM!

MOVE... MUST...
GOT HIM... I'VE...
GO...
HHG... OH...
...NOOO!!
NOT...
...GO... GOT HIM!
...NOT AGAIN...
...NOT...
ARHHH!

...LIKE MY DREAM.
MONSTERS!
CRAZINESS!
WHOAA!
UHH!
IS THIS IT... MY MOTHER'S MADNESS INHERITED? BUT SO SOON.
I'M TOO YOUNG, AREN'T I? TO BE GOING MAD?
EEEAA!
CERTAINLY TOO YOUNG TO BE LOCKED AWAY...
...LIKE THEY DID POOR MAMA.
NHAAA!

I SURVIVE THIS...
...I GIVE BACK EVERYTHING I'VE EVER STOLEN.
ALL OF IT.
ALL--
HEY... STREETS...
JUST REALIZED... THE STREETS... THEIR LAYOUT, THE SAME.
THE ORLEANS I KNOW, THE SAME AS THIS ORLEANS I NEVER WANT TO KNOW.
IN WHICH CASE, A TURN HERE SHOULD LEAD TO...

...THIS ALLEY... A SHORT CUT... A...
...DEAD END. NO. IN MY WORLD...IT'S NOT... IT...
TRAPPED... IT'S OVER, M' GOING TO DIE... AND... I...
...I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY.
YOU WANT TO KNOW?
MIND READER? ONE OF THEM IS--
THAT'S RIGHT. I AM...; AND.. YOU WANT TO KNOW THE WHY OF ALL THIS?
ASK THAT GHOST-BEDDING MOTHER OF YOURS! ASK HER...ALTHOUGH...
...NUH, BUT I ALMOST FORGOT.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET THE CHANCE!
LOOK AT HIS FACE. SCARED.
YEGBIR, S'KINDA FUNNY.
FUNNY? YOU MIGHT NOT THINK SO...

...WHEN YOU GET THE PUNCHLINE.
FOUL SCUM!
OH, THAT YOUR PUTRID MATTER WAS WORTHY OF MY STEEL.
AM I A LAD? AM I SCARED? EASY PREY?
OR...AM I THE LAST THING YOU'LL SEE?
DON'T KNOW WHO HE WAS. BIG NOSE, BIG SWORDS. SAVED MY LIFE, THOUGH.
I'LL THANK HIM, IF I GET THE CHANCE... ONE DAY.
BUT NOW... GOTTA GET AWAY.
S'BACK TO NORMAL. THAT'S GOOD. NOW ALL I GOTTA DO IS KEEP RUNNING.
AND NOT LOOK BACK.

THROUGH LUCK AND FATE AND THEIR FATHER'S WOMANIZING... 'ICE AND TOM AUGUSTINE WERE BORN WITHIN SECONDS OF EACH OTHER.
TO DIFFERENT MOTHERS...WHO BOTH DIED DURING THE BIRTH...WITHIN SECONDS OF EACH OTHER.
RAISED BY THEIR FATHER, THE BOYS WERE TAUGHT THE THINGS THAT REALLY MATTERED. HOW TO SETTLE AN ARGUMENT WITH SHOTGUN OR CLAW HAMMER. HOW TO GUT A MAN FOR LOOKING AT THEM WRONG. (AND HOW TO MAKE A WONDERFUL SHERRY SAUCE FOR CHICKEN. BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY.)
AND THROUGH THE YEARS, BROTHERS AUGUSTINE REMAINED TOGETHER. INSEPARABLE.
TONIGHT, IN THE ALGIERS AREA OF ORLEANS THEY SIT... . INSEPARABLY TOGETHER. WITH ICE NOT HAPPY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE TRUSTED YOU... AGAIN!
...AND TOM NOT CONSCIOUS.
LOOK, IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY...
FOR TOM, THE SIMPLER SOUL, THE EMPTIER VESSEL, IS THE PERFECT HOST FOR SPIRITUAL POSSESSION.
...UNEXPECTEDLY.
WHICH BRINGS US TO THE THIRD PERSON HERE.
CAN'T SEE HER?
LOOK HARDER.
A SWORDSMAN. CYRANO...
CATHERINE MONVOISIN WAS A WITCH AND KILLER DURING LOUIS XIV'S REIGN. PEOPLE OF FRANCE KNEW HER AS LA VOISIN... AND SHUDDERED WHEN SHE PASSED THEM.

TIME AND DEATH HAVE DONE LITTLE TO MELLOW HER.
A FELLOW COUNTRYMAN OF MINE. STICKING HIS BIG NOSE WHERE HE SHOULDN'T.
IT WAS YOUR PLAN, CATH. DON'T FORGET THAT. FOOLPROOF, YOU SAID.
ONE OF OUR ORGANIZATION'S SEERS TELLS US WHERE DEX MUNGO IS GOING TO BE.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT--
IT IS YOUR FAULT!
HE RELAXES, AND IS DRAWN INTO THE ECTOSPHERE, WHERE HIS SOUL'S AT ITS MOST VULNERABLE...AND YOU... er, WE'VE GOT HIM.
BUT--
YOUR SUCCUBI, POSSESSING HUMAN WOMEN... THEY'RE WAITING FOR HIM THERE. THEY BEWITCH MUNGO.
I WANTED TO GET HANDS-ON AFTER YOUR MR. FISH MESSED THINGS UP.
NO, CATH. YOU SAID WAIT. SO TOM AND I WAITED. YOU WANTED ONE MORE CHANCE.
WELL, NO MORE... WAITING OR CHANCES.
TOM AND I ARE ON THIS, AS OF NOW!
THIS IS DEX MUNGO'S LAST NIGHT ALIVE...

"...I HOPE HE'S ENJOYING IT."
I GOTTA GET SOME ANSWERS. GOTTA FIND OUT.
FIND OUT.
WHAT IS HAPPENING... WHAT, AND WHY... AND... GET SOME ANSWERS.
GOTTA KEEP MY HEAD DOWN... STAY IN THE SHADOWS.
AND GET SOME ANSWERS. SEE MY MOTHER. GET HER TO EXPLAIN THIS... EXPLAIN...
OH GOD.
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?
PICKLES 'N MORE
NEXT: MOTHERS, MONSTERS and MAYHEM!